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OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT Mendocino Prescribed Fire and Fuels Management Strategy (59722) Mendocino National Forest The Mendocino National Forest (Forest) proposes a multi-phased, forest-wide prescribed fire and fuels condition-based management strategy to improve vegetation health and reduce the risk of high-severity wildfire. The Draft Environmental Assessment (Draft EA) is available at the project-specific website at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=59722>. The Draft EA evaluates the No Action Alternative (Alternative 1) and the Proposed Project (Alternative 2), which would implement a conditioned-based landscape-level prescribed fire treatment strategy to maintain structure, composition, health, and resilience of forest, shrublands, and grassland communities while reducing hazardous fuel accumulations across the Forest. This alternative would use prescribed fire and manual treatments to achieve desired conditions. The Draft EA also considers a Prescribed Fire and Mechanical Treatment Alternative (Alternative 3), which would allow mechanical treatments in areas where it may be unsafe or infeasible to apply prescribed fire or hand-thinning, or where mechanical treatments would increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the other management methods. The public is invited to attend one of two virtual public meetings Wednesday, November 3, to learn more about the project and ask questions. Please note that no comments will be logged during these meetings. Both meetings will be identical in format: 3 to 4 p.m. via Microsoft Teams at <http://bit.ly/RxFireEA1>. A call-in only option is also available at 202-650-0123 (conference ID: 351 593 616#). 7 to 8 p.m. via Microsoft Teams at <http://bit.ly/RxFireEA2>. A call-in only option is also available at 202-650-0123 (conference ID: 571 905 778#). Comments on the Draft EA will be accepted for 30 days following publication of the legal notice in the Chico Enterprise Record, which is the exclusive means for calculating the comment period for this proposal. You should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source. Your comments are important to the Forest and the planning process. Submitting project-specific written comments at this time allows us the opportunity to consider your comments before finalizing the EA and drafting the Decision Notice. We expect to issue the Final EA and Draft Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact before the end of 2021. Forest Supervisor Ann D. Carlson is the Responsible Official for this project. Comments should be within the scope of the proposed actions, have a direct relationship to the proposed actions, and include supporting reasons for the Responsible Official to consider (36 CFR 218.2). Electronic comments are encouraged and should be submitted to: comments-pacificsouthwest-mendocino@usda.gov. Include "MNF RX Fire" in the email subject line. Attachments to comments must be submitted in one of the following four formats only: Microsoft Word (.doc or .docx), rich text format (.rtf), text format (.txt), or Adobe portable document format (.pdf). Comments may be mailed to the Mendocino National Forest, Attn: Angela Chongpinitchai, 825 N. Humboldt Ave. Willows, CA 95988, or sent by fax to (530) 934-7384. Due to COVID-19, we are unable to accept hand delivered comments at this time. This project is an activity implementing a land management plan and subject to 36 CFR 218 Subparts A and B. Only those who submit timely project-specific

written comments during a public comment period are eligible to file an objection. Individuals or representatives of an entity submitting comments must sign the comments or verify their identity upon request. All written comments received by the responsible official become a matter of public record (36 CFR 218.25(b)(2)). For additional information about the project, contact Angela Chongpinitchai at angela.chongpinitchai@usda.gov or (530) 934-3316. Thank you for your interest in land management on the Mendocino National Forest. 10/22/2021

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